(iii) Judicial separation,
(iv) Dissolution of marriage,
(v) Declaration as to matrimonial status of any person,
(vi) Declaration as to the ownership of property of the party concerned,
(vii) Interim order or injunction arising out of marital relationship,
(viii) Declaration of legitimacy of any person or guardianship of a person or the custody or access to any minor, and
(ix) Suits or proceedings for maintenance.

The emphasis of the Family Courts is on conciliation and achievement of socially desirable results without strict adherence to rigid Rules of procedure and evidence adopted in ordinary civil proceedings.

(d) and (e) No time frame can be prescribed as the same has not been provided in the Courts Act, 1984. further, disposal of cases relates to substantive functioning of the judiciary.

Ratio of judges

3030. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission in its 127th Report in 1988 had recommended that the ratio of judges per million population should be increased to atleast 50 judges per million in the following five years;

(b) the ratio of judges per million at present;

(c) whether the shortage of judges is the cause of huge arrears of cases in courts; and

(d) the steps being taken to appoint more judges so that arrears could be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

Law Commission in its 120th Report recommended an increase in judge strength to 50 judges per million population.

(b) At present, there are 13.38 Judges per million population in the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There are various causes for the huge arrears of cases in Courts. Besides the shortage of Judges, the other reasons, *inter-alia,* include, larger institution of cases on account of increased awareness of rights on the part of the citizens, rise in population, granting of adjournments, industrial development in the country, increased trade and commerce, socio-economic, legislative and administrative measures touching the life of the citizens of all levels, tendency of litigants, lawyers' strike, etc.

The Judge strength in Supreme Court is as per the Constitution of India. The judge strength in the High Courts is reviewed once in three years on the basis of figures of institution and disposal by each High Court. As regards District Courts, the primary responsibility for taking necessary action for increasing the Judges strength as well as filling up of the existing vacancies vests with the State Governments. State Governments have been periodically requested to fill up vacant posts in Subordinate Judiciary.

Funds for free legal assistance to poor in Gujarat

3031. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by Government to provide free legal assistance to poor persons during the last one year in Gujarat;

(b) whether Gujarat Government has utilized the said amount; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Funds are not allocated directly to the State Governments. In terms of Sub-section (c) of Section 4 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) allocates funds to the State Legal Services Authorities for implementation of Legal Aid Schemes and programmes propagated by NALSA which includes provision for free